Guide to the Delphian Study Club Records MSS.2010.01.12

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Organizational History

The Delphian Society formed in Chicago around 1910 to promote women's education in the arts, literature and history. Following the formation of the society, several chapters formed across the U.S., including a local chapter in San Jose.

On January 30, 1931, the San Jose chapter received their Charter from the national organization and at that time the seventy-nine members named their branch the Alpha Chi Chapter. The goal of the members was to promote higher education, personal improvement, and social progress. The Delphian Study Club, a women's book club, offered specific courses in the humanities. The members were required to purchase the complete set of books though the meetings were non-scholarly. As part of their membership, the women were required to present what they learned during their assigned readings and were encouraged to speak briefly from direct knowledge and understanding rather than reciting a prepared speech. The Delphian Society published several volumes of books containing an outline of human knowledge from ancient history, literature, drama, art, modern literature, poetry, and music.

In 1947, the Alpha Chi Chapter split from the National Organization to form a separate autonomous organization, which they renamed the Delphian Study Club. This split allowed the women the ability to charter their own study course based on subjects of interest and speakers of their choice.


Related Material

The YWCA of Silicon Valley Records, MSS-2006-01-01, San José State University Library, Special Collections and Archives. National Organization for Women, San José/South Bay chapter, MSS-2008-03-02, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.
League of Women Voters, San José/Santa Clara chapter Records, MSS-2006-09-01, San José State University Library Special Collections and Archives.

Scope and Content of Collection
The Delphian Study Club Records (1931-2018) document the San Jose Delphian Club's history and activities. The Delphian Study Club originally formed as a chapter of the Delphian Society, which was founded in Chicago around 1910 to promote education of women in the arts, literature, and history.

The San José Delphian Study Club was founded in 1931. The first name of this women's club was the Alpha Chi Chapter. The goal of the club was to promote education, personal improvement and social progress. In 1947, the Alpha Chi Chapter split from the National Organization to form a separate autonomous organization, which they renamed the Delphian Study Club.

Arrangement
This collection is arranged into two series: Series I. Delphian Club Materials, 1931-2016; Series II. Programs, 1957-2018.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Women -- California -- San Jose (Calif.) -- Societies and clubs
Delphian Study Club
San José State University. Library. Special Collections & Archives

Series I: Delphian Club Materials 1931-2016
Series Scope and Content Summary
The materials in this series document the history and the activities of the Delphian Study Club Society formed in 1931. The first name of this women's club was the Alpha Chi Chapter, a chapter of the national society. The records consist of meeting minutes, handwritten notebooks, photographs, and newspapers. The meeting reports provide some documentation on club social activities such as picnics and parties, as well as including revisions to their club constitution.

Arrangement
This series is arranged chronologically by date.

Box 1, Folder 1
Minute Books 1931-1939
Box 2, Folder 2
Understanding Modern Art" Book 1936
Box 2, Folder 3
"Creative Thinkers" book 1937
Box 1, Folder 2
Minute Books 1939-1942
Box 1, folder 3
Minute Books 1942-1947
Box 1, Folder 4
Minute Books 1947-1952
Box 1, Folder 5
Minute Books 1952-1955
Box 2, Folder 6
The Delphian Quarterly Autumn 1953
Box 1, Folder 6
Minute Books 1956-1959
Box 1, folder 7
Minute Books 1960-1969
Box 2, Folder 7
Constitution and By-laws June 1961
Box 1, Folder 8
Minute Books 1969-1973
Box 1, Folder 9
Member List, Minutes and Constitution 1973-1980
Box 1, Folder 10
Minutes and Member Lists 1980-1985
Box 1, Folder 11
Minutes 1985-1990
Box 1, Folder 12
Minutes 1992-1996
Box 2, Folder 1
Delphian Club Photo Album 1993, 2007-2013
Box 1, Folder 13
Box 1, Folder 14
Notes, Newspapers, History of Delphian Club 1964-1985
Box 1, Folder 15
Party Reports, Job, Newspapers 1962-1996
Box 1, folder 16
Minutes 1999-2004
Box 1, Folder 17
Minutes 2005-2010
Box 1, Folder 18
Member Obituaries
Box 1, Folder 19
April 2007 Spring Luncheon Programs , April 2008 Spring Luncheon Photos, 75th year celebration programs 2007-2008
Box 1, Folder 20
Member Roll Call 1999-2007
Series I: Delphian Club Materials 1931-2016

Box 1, Folder 24  Minutes 2011-2016
Box 2, folder 4  Delphian End-of-Year Photobooks 2011 and 2012
Box 1, Folder 21  Revised Club History, Member Histories/Bios, Delphian Fashion History
Box 1, folder 22  Printed Materials
Box 2, Folder 5  "Remembering Catherine" Memorabilia Poster

Series II: Programs 1957-2018

Series Scope and Content Summary
This series consists of club programs, which highlight the diversity of study subjects that include: ancient history, literature (Montaigne, Steinbeck, Turgenev, Shakespeare, etc.), music (classicism, romanticism, Opera, Wagner, Brahms, etc.), art, philosophy (Epicurus, Descartes, Spinoza, etc.), poetry (Milton, Whitman, etc.). A few of the speakers include Margie Gray, Fuji Takaichi, Dr. Jeanne Elliott, Toddy Dahleen, and Stella George.

Arrangement
This series is arranged chronologically by year.

Box 2, Folder 8  Programs 1957-1972
Box 2, folder 9  Programs 1973-1979
Box 2, folder 10  Programs 1980-1988
Box 2, Folder 11  Programs 1989-1999
Box 2, folder 12  Programs 1999-2005
Box 2, folder 13  Programs 2006-2011
Box 2, folder 14  Programs 2012-2018